RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116 -EXPEDITED PROCEDURE - EXAMINING GROUP []

Attorney's Docket No. 033339/234602

PATENT

Confirmation No.: 5142

Group No.: 1645

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re:

For:

Cayeula et al.

Appln No.: 09/856,969

Filed:

Mail Stop AF

P.O. Box 1450

Commissioner for Patents

08/01/2001

Examiner: Jana Hines SELECTION AND USES OF LACTIC ACID BACTERIA

STRAINS MODULATING NON-SPECIFIC IMMUNITY

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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 PETITION AND FEE FOR EXTENSION OF TIME 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)

	This is a petition for an extension of time for a total period of one month to respond to the Office Action dated December 11, 2004.
2.	Applicant is a small entity; other than a small entity. Calculation of extension fee (37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(1)-(a)(5)):

Total Months Requested

Fee for Other Than Small Entity

One month

\$110.00

*Cannot be used to exceed six-month statutory limit for response to an Official Action.

 \Box A check in the amount of \$ is enclosed.

X Charge Deposit Account No. 16-0605 for the extension fee.

N Charge Deposit Account No. 16-0605 for any fee deficiency.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond O. Linker, Jr. Registration No. 26,419

Customer No. 00826 ALSTON & BIRD LLP Bank of America Plaza 101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000 Charlotte, NC 28280-4000 Tel Charlotte Office (704) 444-1000 Fax Charlotte Office (704) 444-1111 CLT01/4639565v1

CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office at Fax No. (703) 872-9306 on the date shown below.

F. Sherrill

March 31, 2004